

BLACK SCIENCE

12

RICK REMENDER
MATTEO SCALERA
MORENO DINISIO



THE STORY SO FAR...

Grant McKay, leader of The Anarchist League of Scientists, has done the impossible; he has deciphered Black Science and punched through the barriers of reality, to seek hidden truths in forbidden realms.

But on its maiden voyage, the Pillar malfunctioned, jumping at random intervals, sending Grant, his team, and his two children spiraling through the Eververse, living ghosts shipwrecked on an infinite ocean of alien worlds, barreling through the dark realms, long forgotten, ancient and unimaginable.

Grant suspected that a member of his group had sabotaged the Pillar: Kadir, his boss and long-time rival for the affections of Sara, Grant's wife.

Kadir rejected the claim, instead casting blame for the accident at Rebecca, the Pillar's co-creator with whom Grant was having an affair, and Shawn, a genius college dropout, who joined the project fiercely inspired by the Anarchist League of Scientist dogma.

A grizzled Grant McKay from an alternative reality delivered proof of Kadir's treachery while also trying to kidnap Grant's children Nate and Pia, to replace those children he himself had lost.

When Grant confronted Kadir with the truth, he admitted to the wanting the Pillar destroyed, claiming he sought to protect the world from exactly the kind of catastrophic predicament they were trapped in now.

Grant tried to kill Kadir. In the end, Grant was trapped under a ton of rubble. Kadir had no choice but to leave him behind; the Pillar was only moments away from the next jump.

Before bleeding out, Grant took a promise from Kadir, a dying wish: "Get my kids back to Sara."

Kadir's resolve was tested in a series of adventures, where the team discovered that versions of themselves existed in every dimension. Patterns formed, revealing a never-changing truth: Mr. Block, the owner of the Pillar project, wanted to use its power for evil.

During a cataclysmic showdown with Blokk, leader of the telepathic millipede death cult, Grant McKay returned in their hour of need. Rebecca killed an alternate version of Grant in front of his wife, a possessed Chandra escaped with a handheld Pillar, and Blokk also captured a Pillar before the team jumped away.

For all the dangers the League has overcome so far, the journey to the center of the Onion has only just begun...

BLACK SCIENCE created by Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera.

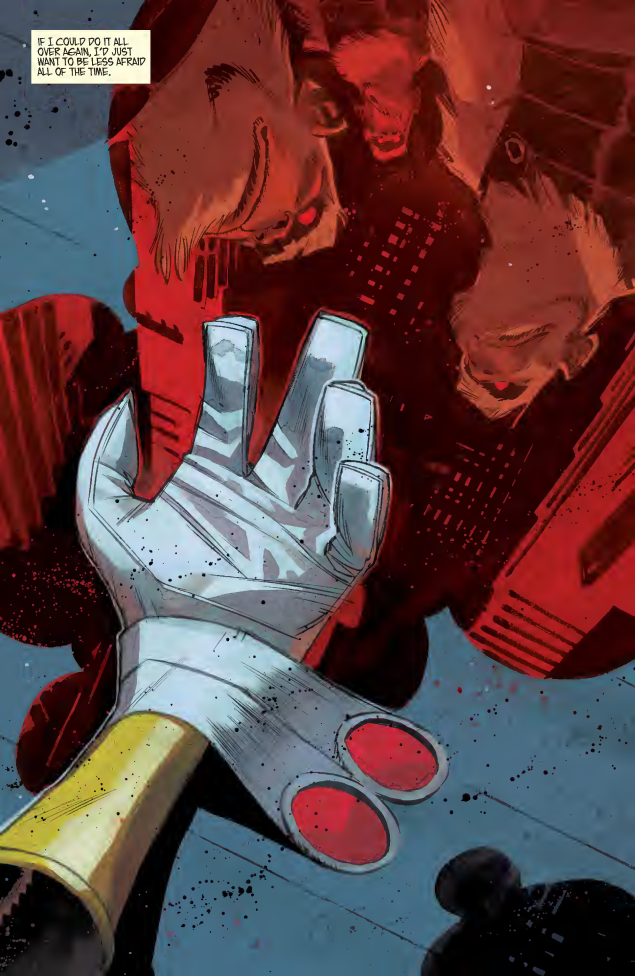


IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Robert Kirkman - Chief Operating Officer
Rob Liefers - Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane - Publisher
Mark Scheidt - Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino - Vice President
Kirk Thompson - Publisher
Rae Richards - President Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman - Director of Brand Sales
Karl Salazar - Director of PR & Marketing
Cory Marling - Director of Sales
Jeremy Sullivan - Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Sauter - Sales Assistant
Bryan B. Johnson - Sales Assistant
Kathy Miller - Accounts Manager
Jessica Runko - Administrative Assistant
Tina Shalomo - Executive Assistant
Dana - Receptionist / Office Manager
Jonathan Chan - Production Manager
Drew Gil - Art Director
Shawna Wallace - Production Manager
Andrew Duke - Production Artist
Vincent Ruben - Production Artist
Mina Ramo - Production Artist
imagecomics.com

BLACK SCIENCE #12, March 2015. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, 6th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Copyright © 2015 Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera. All rights reserved. **BLACK SCIENCE** (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION. For international rights inquiries, contact: foreignlicensing@imagecomics.com

IF I COULD DO IT ALL
OVER AGAIN, I'D JUST
WANT TO BE LESS AFRAID
ALL OF THE TIME.





MY LAST THOUGHT
REVERBERATED.

I REMEMBER
ALMOST LAUGHING.

THE ANSWER HAD
BEEN IN FRONT OF
ME THE WHOLE TIME.

BUT IT WAS ONLY CLEAR
NOW THAT NOTHING COULD
BE DONE ABOUT IT.



I AWOKE IN A
STRANGE ROOM FULL OF
IRIDESCENT LIGHT.

THE PAIN
HAD ENDED.

THERE WAS MUSIC,
UNDULATING, A
MILLION CHOIRS—



I WAS HOME.

RELIEF ON A
CELLULAR
LEVEL.

TRUE PEACE.

BUT IT WAS
NOT TO LAST.



THEY WEREN'T
DONE WITH ME.

ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY,
GUILT, AND PAIN CAME
FLOODING BACK.

THE SENTIENT GAS
CREATURES COMMUNICATED
TO ME TELEPATHICALLY.

MADE IT CLEAR WHY
I'D BEEN SAVED.



THEIR APE HOSTS
WERE DYING OFF—
THEIR PLANET
FROZEN OVER.

THEY WERE DESPERATE
TO FIND A NEW GARDEN
OF LIFE THAT THEY
COULD INHABIT.

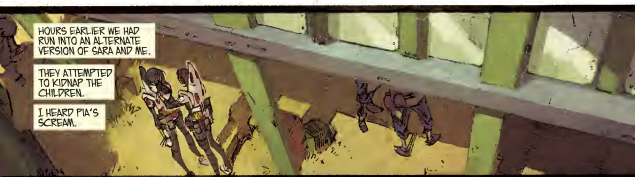
THEY KNEW
I COULD
FIX THEIR
PILLAR.



I PRETENDED
TO WORK ON IT.

ENOUGH TO AVOID
THE TORTURE THEY
THREATENED.

THEY ALLOWED ME
ACCESS TO MY
UTILITY POUCHES,
UNAWARE OF ONE
IMPORTANT FACT:



HOURS EARLIER WE HAD
RUN INTO AN ALTERNATE
VERSION OF SARA AND ME.

THEY ATTEMPTED
TO KIDNAP THE
CHILDREN.


I HEARD PIA'S
SCREAM.



A DEVICE CAME
CRASHING DOWN.



I DIDN'T WANT
ANYONE'S HOPES TO
BE UNREALISTICALLY
HIGH, SO I KEPT
IT SECRET.



THE MONKEYS HAD
GIVEN ME THE TOOLS
I NEEDED.

TOOLS TO FIX THE
HANDHELD PILLAR.

TO TRACK DOWN THE
KIDS AND MY TEAM--

—TOOLS TO GET
THEM ALL HOME.

THERE WASN'T
TIME TO TEST IT.

I PRAYED THAT IT
WOULDN'T BLOW
ME TO SHIT.

I THOUGHT OF SARA.



I JUMPED FOR WEEKS.

THROUGH HUNDRED
OF WORLDS.



BUT IT NEVER BROUGHT
ME BACK TO THEM.



I WAS DISORIENTED
AND SICK FROM
NUMEROUS EARTHS
WITH STRANGE
ATMOSPHERES.



I HADN'T EATEN IN DAYS.

MY SPIRIT WAS BROKEN.

I COULDN'T
CONTINUE TO
JUMP.

I WAS LOSING WHAT
WAS LEFT OF MY MIND.

HAD TO TAKE THE TIME
TO FIGURE OUT HOW
HE'D ZEROED IN ON US.



AND THEN I FINALLY
REALIZED THAT IT WASN'T
SOME PROGRAMMING
INSIDE THE PILLAR
THAT HE'D USED.

HE WAS AN IDIOT
WITH A BAD MEMORY...



...JUST LIKE ME.

HE'D ENGRAVED
A NOTCH JUST ABOVE
THE FREQUENCY
COORDINATES THAT
WOULD TAKE ME
TO MY KIDS.

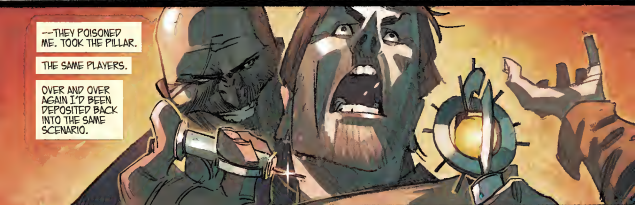
BUT BEFORE
I COULD
ACTIVATE IT--



--THEY POISONED
ME. TOOK THE PILLAR.

THE SAME PLAYERS.

OVER AND OVER
AGAIN I'D BEEN
DEPOSITED BACK
INTO THE SAME
SCENARIO.



MR. BLOCK SOUGHT CONTROL.

KADIR SOUGHT SARA.

GRANT AND SARA ONLY
WANTED TO FIND THEIR VERY
LIKELY DEAD CHILDREN.

THE SAME PATTERNS PLAYING OUT,
REPEATING THROUGH THE ONION.

BUT I DIDN'T STOP FIGHTING.
I GOT THE PILLAR--

--AND JUMPED.



B L A C K S C E N E

RICK REMENDER
WRITER

MATTEO SCALERA
ARTIST

MORENO DINISIO
COLORS

RUS WOOTON
LETTERING

SEBASTIAN GIRNER
EDITOR



DO THEY
KNOW THE
TRUTH,
REBECCA?

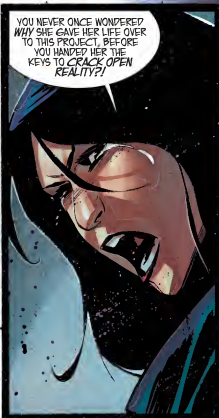
WHY
YOU'VE
USED THEM
ALL?

P-PLEASE...



YOU'VE
GOT IT ALL
WRONG,
SARA.

GIVE
ME THE
GUN...



YOU NEVER ONCE WONDERED
WHY SHE GAVE HER LIFE OVER
TO THIS PROJECT, BEFORE
YOU HANDED HER THE
KEYS TO CRACK OPEN
REALITY?!



NO! THE
EGOTIST
THOUGHT SHE
WAS JUST
NOTHER COG
IN HIS PLAN!

CALM
DOWN.

DON'T
MAKE MY
CHILDREN WATCH
THEIR MOTHER
MURDER
SOMEONE.

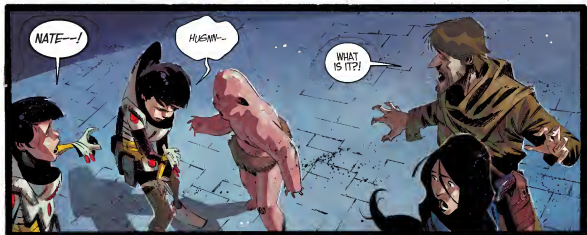
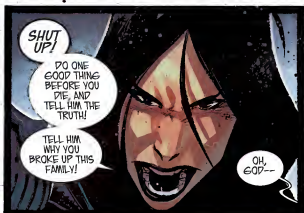


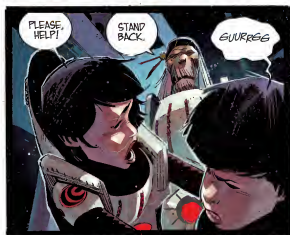
I...

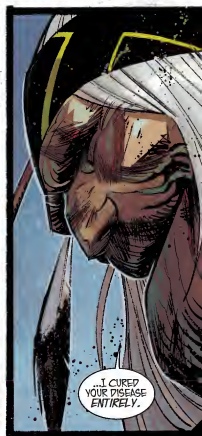


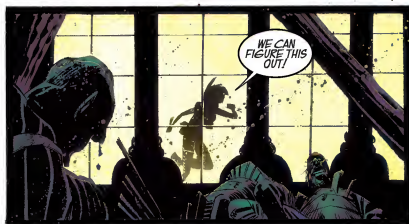
WE'LL
FIGURE THIS
OUT.

WE
CAN FIND A
SOLUTION.











CITIZEN!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?!



I-I WAS
LOOKING
FOR--



THE
MARK.



I-I WAS
LOOKING FOR
MY MOTHER...



YOUR
MOTHER'S
DEAD,
GIRL--

"--AS ALL YOU
HERETICS
WILL BE!"

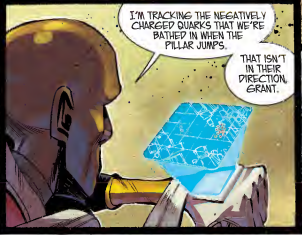
TAKING A
DEAD MAN'S
CLOTHES...

HE DOESN'T
NEED THEM.
I DO.

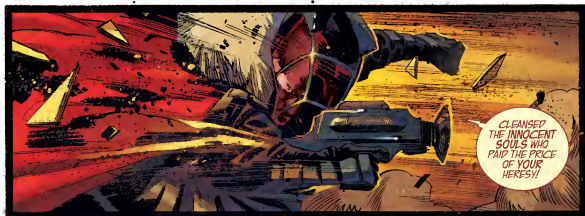
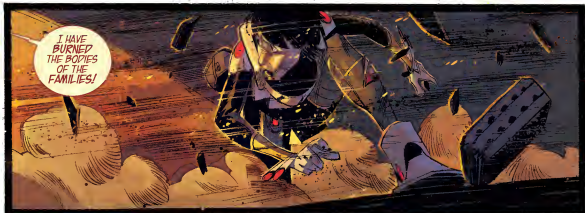
THE ARMOR
PLATE HAS
SEALED
ITSELF.

MEMORY METAL.
AND FROM THE
LOOKS OF THIS
PLACE I'LL
NEED IT.

GOD DAMN
IT, PIA, WHERE
DID YOU
GO...













THE HIGHEST READING OF QUARK PARTICLES IS COMING FROM INSIDE THAT BUILDING.

THAT MUST BE THEM.

WHAT THE HELL IS SHE THINKING?



LET'S JUST GET TO THEM BEFORE WE FIND OUT WHAT TERRIBLE SHIT EMPTIED OUT THIS CITY.

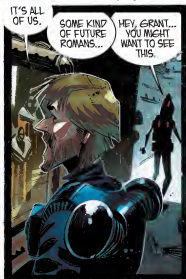


LOOK AT THIS.

IT'S ALL OF US.

SOME KIND OF FUTURE ROMANS...

HEY, GRANT... YOU MIGHT WANT TO SEE THIS.



WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?



TO BE CONTINUED...



Welcome back!

First off let's welcome our new series colorist Moreno Dinisio. He and Matteo are frequent collaborators, and as you can see here, they meld together perfectly. Welcome Moreno!

So, now comes the big payoff. We've put in our time building the cast, building the danger, and establishing [some of] the stakes. The third arc of **BLACK SCIENCE** is going to be where we jerk the wheel and send the car over the cliff. The team thinks they have some idea of the trouble they are in, but they do not. And the end of this arc will turn the entire premise of the series on its head leaving us with a completely different book when it's over. I love it when a plan comes together, as the man says. Let's get to some letters.

Dear **BLACK SCIENCE** Team,

Not sure how to start since this is my first letter to any comic series. I want to thank you guys for creating this amazing world with some of the best art in the industry and solid writing month after month. It was **BLACK SCIENCE** that inspired me enough to go back to an old story idea of my own and continue to write, expand, and create a world of my own. I have loved **BLACK SCIENCE** since the first issue and will stay until the final issue. One question for now, what sci-fi movie or book would you say inspired you most to create **BLACK SCIENCE**?

Sincerely, Chad Lankford
From the center of the Onion

RR - Wait, Chad, you got to the center of the Onion? If it's anything like what I think, it's like you're probably going a good bit

insane. We're really glad to hear the book inspired you to make your own comics. No better compliment I can imagine. As for the films that inspired us, it's really a mess of things dropped into a blender. Each new world is an opportunity to cook up new stuff and draw from different inspirations. *Flash Gordon*, *Wally Wood*, *Blade Runner*, *Star Trek*, *H.G. Wells*, *Moebius*, and *Frazetta* are probably at the top of the list.

Hello, awesome team behind **BLACK SCIENCE**.

My name is Julian, I'm from Colombia. At first I didn't have any idea what this comic would be all about, but the title got me and I have enjoyed every page of the comic, as it offers really different types of storytelling, characters, stories, and development but also the other look at things like regret, love, and life.

I was thinking of making my own stories but something always stopped me because it felt like I was missing something, but I finally found it while reading this and it is a "little" taint of darkness and the contrast for good situations to BAD situations is done. Thank you so much for doing this comic and keep up the good job. I will follow this adventure wherever or whenever it takes.

RR - Long ago I read Kurt Vonnegut advise writers to beat the hell out of their characters, and I always have. I also try and draw from my personal life and the lives of others around me for certain aspects to add authenticity and the unexpected.

Dude, dudes, guys, this is so good. Soooo good. I grew up with European comic books and have been exploring American comics for the past couple of months and I'm mostly taken by Image's titles. **BLACK SCIENCE**, *Saga*, *The Manhattan Projects*, *Nowhere Men*... Just great stuff that makes me incredibly happy to finally try the U.S. work that's going on right now. BS is special. The story, the art, the colours. Oh man, the colours... I'm blown away every time I start a new issue. I wanted to thank you to you and the team. Please convey my thanks and deep, deep love for the work.

Keep up with BS, it's amazing.

Maybe don't turn it into actual BS...

RR - Thank you for the nice word type things. It's nice to know someone who grew up on the power of the European scene can find value in what we're doing over here these days. Of course my current artist collaborators aren't American (Scalera is Italian, Tocchini is Brazilian, Craig is Canadian...) so perhaps that has something to do with the sensibility you're drawn to.

If you like this, you should try **FEAR AGENT**, my first big Sci-Fi project with Tony Moore and Jerome Opeña. We worked on it from 2004 to 2011 and it's a love letter to the old EC Sci-Fi comics.

We will see you in 30 days for the beginning of the end of the Anarchist League of Scientists.

- Rick



COMMISSION BY MATTEO SCALERA





BLACK SCIENCE

1

RICK REMENDER
MATTEO SCALERA
DEAN WHITE



\$3.50

COMMISSION BY MATTEO SCALERA

BLACK SCIENCE PROCESS





MILLAR MURPHY CHRONONAUTS

MARCH 2015



IT'S ABOUT TIME

IMAGECOMICS.COM

Chrononauts™ copyright © 2015 by Miller & Watt. All rights reserved. Image Comics and its logo are registered trademarks and service marks of Image Comics.

image

NEXT ISSUE

BLACK SCIENCE

13

RICK REMENDER
MATTEO SCALERA
MORENO DINISIO



\$3.50





IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED M / MATURE